

SB 32

**Mr. Chairman and members of the committee,
For the record, my name is Mary Ann Hayes.**

**I am the Regional Ombudsman for Areas IV and V, and I live
here in Helena.**

**I am representing the 5 regional ombudsmen, and the 25 local
ombudsmen who cover the state of Montana.**

**The word Ombudsman means advocate.
We advocate for long term care residents, and their rights, as
outlined in the Older American's Act, and the Montana statute.**

**There are 187 Assisted Living Facilities, 99 Nursing Homes and
43 Critical Access Hospitals in Montana.**

**Our program supports Senate Bill 32, as proposed by Senator
Schmidt.**

Thank you all for considering this bill.

*Rm- 172 Business & Labor Comm.
South entrance
then west. North side of hall*